

L. Odom, John S. Palmer, John Parker, Billy B. Parks, George M. Pearce, Felix P. Pinnix, Francis A. Plauché, Eileen Rahm, Wallace T. Rascoe, James O. Rawls, James L. Revells, John M. Rust, Gerald D. Sanderson, Frank P. Sartori, Paul Sartori, Orvis U. Sigler; and

Joe D. Simpson, Lonell L. Smith, William H. Smith, Leroy Solice, James C. Spencer, Jackson W. Stine, James H. Stronger, Garrard M. Stump, Terry B. Trammell, Henry G. Ward, Billy R. Weeks, Thomas R. Wells, Arvis L. Wiley, Otis Wilkerson, Roger C. Wilkinson, Kenneth C. Wood, Neil A. Yarborough.

MICHAEL A. MAZELLA, JR.

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 11, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael A. Mazella, Jr., a principal, teacher, and alumnus of the St. Ann School in the Dongan Hills community of Staten Island, New York who has touched the lives of thousands of Staten Island children.

Born and raised in Dongan Hills by his mother Lee Mazella and his father, the late Michael Mazella, Michael Mazella, Jr. was a member of the first graduating class of the St. Ann School, the former Augustinian Academy on Grymes Hill and St. John's University.

Mr. Mazella taught 7th and 8th grade classes at St. Ann School for over 17 years before becoming its first principal who was not a member of the clergy. He has served as principal for the past 22 years. Besides his work as principal and classroom teacher, Mr. Mazella has also served as a gym instructor for St. Ann's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, the boys' varsity basketball coach, and a moderator of the St. Ann's Parish Christian Youth Organization sports program.

As principal, Mr. Mazella has worked hard to bolster St. Ann's academic programs, spearheading efforts to re-establish the school's kindergarten program and institute requirements for foreign language, art and music appreciation, and computer science. He also played a central role in the effort to secure and maintain the school's Middle States accreditation.

Principal Mazella has also supervised two major renovation projects at the St. Ann School. In 1992, the school added a wing to house a new pre-school, the computer center, a library, and a faculty room. And in 2005, in commemoration of the school's Golden Jubilee, Principal Mazella oversaw a key modernization effort that provided St. Ann students with state of the art lighting, Smart Boards, new desks and chairs, and air-conditioning.

Mike Mazella's achievements as a principal and teacher have been widely recognized far beyond the confines of St. Ann's Parish. He is the recipient of numerous awards including: Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1975, the Jack Anglin Memorial Trophy, the Maurice Wollin Award, Staten Island Teacher of the Year in 1984, the Distinguished Graduate Award in 1991 from the N.C.E.A., and the Medal of Honor from the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

In addition to his lifetime of dedication and 40 years of service to St. Ann School, Mike Mazella has been a positive influence on the lives of countless Dongan Hills public school

children, serving as a CCD program coordinator for over 30 years.

Outside of his professional life, Michael Mazella is a devoted family man, married to Pamela Smith of West Brighton for almost 40 years. He is the father of three children, Michael, Julie and Jessica and the beloved grandfather of Ryan, Justin, Erik, Georgia, and Keira.

Michael Mazella will retire from his role as principal of the St. Ann School this June when the academic year comes to a close. He will leave behind a legacy of service to St. Ann's and the larger Staten Island community, having improved the lives of thousands of children through his work as teacher, coach, principal, mentor, and role model. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Michael A. Mazella, Jr. and his extraordinary contributions to Staten Island and the St. Ann School.

HONORING THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 11, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to rise and extend my sincere congratulations to the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for an outstanding organization.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has become an institution in the Greater New Haven community. What began as the effort of a small group of local businessmen has today grown into an organization with twelve branches, serving more than 75,000 people in twenty-five communities. The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA offers a myriad of programs for children, families, as well as adults—continuing in their founders' vision of identifying and addressing unmet needs within the community. Although the work of the YMCA has changed over the years, from teaching English to immigrants at the turn of the 20th century to teaching values to modern day youth, they continue to provide programs and services that enrich the community and enhance the quality of life for all.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has a vision for the community—to advocate for those whose voices are seldom heard, improve neighborhoods, and build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. From after-school childcare to summer camp and preschool programs to year-round swim lessons for all ages, the CCC YMCA offers our young people programs designed to help them develop strong foundations on which to build their future success. The CCC YMCA has created parent-child fitness classes to encourage families to exercise together, youth sports programs with parents interacting as coaches as well as cheering from the sidelines, and have most recently begun programs promoting and supporting healthy family lifestyles. The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has created an environment where families have the opportunity to spend quality time together.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is also a strong partner in providing a continuum

of care to individuals and families who have become homeless. It is the largest provider of supportive housing in Fairfield County and operates the only family emergency shelter in the City of Bridgeport. In just this past year alone, they provided housing to 892 individuals, including more than 400 children. And they are providing so much more than simply shelter from the elements and a place to lay one's head. Their supportive services include case management, job training, and continuing education classes. It is through this holistic approach that so many in need are finding the resources necessary to rebuild their lives, provide for their families, and contribute to the community.

For one hundred-fifty years, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has been there for our children and families. Its great success would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of its Board of Directors, Managers, Trustees, staff and volunteers—past and present—who remain vigilant in their mission. Their compassion, generosity, and vision have guided this organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to them for all of their good work.

Today, as the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA celebrates its 150th Anniversary, I am pleased to rise not only congratulate the organization on this remarkable milestone, but thank them for the many invaluable contributions they have made which have gone a long way in shaping the very character of our community. Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of continued success!

COMMENDING SISTER M. THERESE ANTONE

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 11, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the State of Rhode Island and the students of Salve Regina University, I would like to acknowledge and commend Sister M. Therese Antone. She is currently fulfilling a fifteen-year tenure as the sixth president of Salve Regina University in Newport, and she will assume a role as the first Chancellor of the University on July 1.

Under the direction of Sister Therese Antone, Salve Regina University has impacted and improved the academic and economic vigor of the State of Rhode Island. Sister Therese has brought the issues of higher education, business ethics, healthcare and social justice to the forefront as a community leader and statewide representative. Sister Therese has been invaluable to Salve Regina University and the State of Rhode Island.

The diligent work of Sister Therese has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands. Her continued involvement and leadership at Salve Regina University will remain a paramount asset to the further development of higher education. I hereby recognize Sister M. Therese Antone for her service, achievement and dedication to the dynamic advancement of academia.